

SECTION 2—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The River Raisin Area of Concern (AOC) is the lower 2.6 miles of river located in Monroe, Michigan. Over the past 20 years, several studies have been completed cooperatively by state and federal agencies to evaluate river quality and beneficial use impacts associated with sediments severely contaminated with persistent, bioaccumulative substances. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are present at concentrations sufficient to cause acute and/or chronic harm to benthic organisms. Certain fish populations within the AOC have accumulated PCBs, and the State of Michigan has advised anglers to limit or avoid consuming these fish. Bald eagles nesting in the area have deformities linked to consuming contaminated fish. Recreational users may come into direct contact with these contaminants and their activities may cause contaminant re-suspension and transport to downstream locations, including Lake Erie. Industrial uses of the river, including commercial shipping traffic and the cooling water intake and discharge of a nearby power plant may also cause contaminant re-suspension and dispersion.

The goals for the project are to: reduce the risks to humans, wildlife, and aquatic life within the River Raisin AOC; restore the aquatic habitat; and reduce the potential for migration and dispersion of contaminated sediment. The project will accomplish these goals by dredging and disposing of approximately 94,000 cubic yards of the contaminated sediment from the River Raisin and placing a layer of sand and stone over the affected area.

The State will measure the effectiveness of this remediation through sampling and analyses of sediments remaining after dredging (but prior to placement of the cover) to ensure the cleanup criterion is achieved, and by additional monitoring to be conducted one year after remedial activities as a final measure of remedial success.